

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CONGRATULATING WCMT-AM ON ITS 2005 CRYSTAL AWARD

#### HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me today in honoring WCMT-AM, in Martin, Tennessee, for being named a 2005 Crystal Award Winner by the National Association of Broadcasters. As you know, this very prestigious award recognizes those radio stations that provide outstanding public service to their communities, and we are proud that WCMT is receiving this honor.

WCMT is a treasure for West Tennessee because of its focus on those who live in Weakley County and the surrounding areas. The station's news programming has long been an excellent source of information for West Tennesseans, and its community outreach efforts have been invaluable to many of our fellow residents. It is locally owned and operated by Thunderbolt Broadcasting, whose president and general manager, Paul Tinkle, is a long-time friend of mine and a true leader in Weakley County.

WCMT-AM is a past recipient of the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year Award and a four-time finalist for the NAB Crystal Award, with which it is now being honored. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the decades of dedicated broadcasting excellence and community service that have helped WCMT earn this celebrated honor.

### A TRIBUTE TO NICOLAS ABREU

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Nicolas Abreu.

Nicolas Abreu was born on the beautiful island of the Dominican Republic to Hobo and Nicolasa Abreu. On February 19, 1979, the entire family migrated to New York in order to pursue a better life.

His first job, as a waiter in a local restaurant, lasted for nine years. Remembering the vision of his parents led him to resign from his restaurant job and go to work at the family run Auto Dealer establishment.

On November 14, 1981, Nicolas Abreu married Luz at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. Together, they are the proud parents of three children.

Continuing the family legacy, in 1991, Mr. Abreu opened his own auto sales business in Brooklyn, naming it "Diana Auto Sales" after his daughter. Business was good and by the mid 1990s Nicolas opened his second used car sales establishment, Crystal Motors Inc., named after his niece.

Mr. Abreu also leads by example in his spiritual life. He is an Extra Ordinary Minister at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, where he and his family worship. He is the founding member of the EMAUS (a men's group in the church whose role is to get men involved in activities in the church).

He owes his success to his parents for their vision and dedication to their children; if it were not for his parent's foresight he would not be where he is today. Mr. Speaker, Nicolas Abreu recognizes the importance of family, hard work, respect for the community and courage makes him more than worthy of our recognition today.

### IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN HANSON

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an invaluable member of my community, Mr. John Hanson. Mr. Hanson is a Building Maintenance Specialist from the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and has recently completed a tour of duty in Iraq with the Army National Guard. Sergeant First Class Hanson's unit was called up in late 2003 and he served in Iraq for 16 consecutive months.

Mr. Hanson has been with the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea since 1988 and was well supported by his wife, Annette, his two children, and his community. Mr. Hanson has not only served his country with honor, but has met some of the humanitarian needs of the Iraqis that he has come in contact with. While he was in Iraq, John supported, with the assistance of his family at home, an Iraqi school with shipments of items like flip-flops, tank tops, and school supplies. For having endured an extended time away from his family and friends, the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea has awarded him a key to the City.

Through his enormous sense of decency, fairness, generosity, and commitment to his country, Mr. John Hanson has been an asset to everyone that he has touched. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize Sergeant First Class John Hanson.

### HONORING THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join all of those who have gathered in congratulating the National Organization of Italian American Women as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary. This is

a very special milestone for this outstanding organization.

Twenty-five years ago, a small group of Italian American women gathered in the Upper West Side apartment of Aileen Riggio Sirey. That meeting and their desire to assist other Italian American women and develop a nationwide network of women sharing a common ancestry sparked the formation of the National Organization of Italian American Women. Through their commitment to this effort, NOIAW members have developed a very successful scholarship and mentoring program and also offer a variety of educational and social programs. Today, NOIAW has a strong membership and is well-known as a resource for other Italian American women pursuing their own educational and professional aspirations.

Throughout our nation's history, Italian Americans have played a pivotal role in the success and progress of America. The myriad of invaluable contributions that those of Italian ancestry have made to this nation are immeasurable. Musicians, artists, doctors, lawyers, politicians, teachers, activists, and more—the credits of Italian Americans can be found in professional and civic services across America. As an annual celebration of pride in their ethnic heritage, NOIAW recognizes the achievements of today's outstanding Italian Americans.

As they mark their 25th Anniversary, NOIAW will also honor three inspiring individuals who have each distinguished themselves in their respective careers. Lisa Caputo Nowak is an astronaut and Commander in the U.S. Navy and will become the first Italian American woman in space with the launch of STS-21 to the International Space Station in the near future. Patricia de Stacy Harrison is the current Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Prior to her appointment, she founded and managed a top public relations firm and has also served as the Co-Chair of the Republican National Committee. NOIAW's Special Recognition Award will be presented to Antonio Giordano, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Sbarro Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine. Dr. Giordano is internationally renowned for his research in cell cycle, gene therapy, and the genetics of cancer. The accomplishments of these individuals and their outstanding contributions to our nation will certainly stand as an inspiration for generations to come.

In sharing and celebrating our ethnic heritage, NOIAW has built a strong network of women and supporters who are ensuring that future generations can achieve their dreams. Their mission to support, mentor, and encourage the professional and personal success of other Italian American women is making a real difference in the lives of thousands of women throughout the country. It is with great pride that I stand today and extend my sincere congratulations to the National Organization of Italian American Women on their 25th Anniversary. In just a short time they have already touched the lives of so many, and I send my

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

very best wishes to the Board and its membership for many more years of success!

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
SHERIFF GERALD T. McFAUL

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of Sheriff Gerald T. McFaul for the exemplary service he has shown to our community during his 38 years in public office. As the longest serving sheriff in Cuyahoga County history, Gerald has been a vital asset to our community.

In 1957, only two weeks out of high school, Gerald started an apprenticeship at the Pipefitters Local 120 and has been a proud member for 53 years. At the same time he ran for Cleveland City council—and lost. But Gerald was committed to helping his community and on his third try won a seat, which he kept for five consecutive terms.

At 31, he became the youngest Majority Leader in Cleveland City Council history. I too at age 31 was elected to a public office in Cleveland, when I was voted the youngest mayor ever of a major American city. So I can tell you personally that this speaks volumes to his character.

Because Gerald is interested in justice issues and having a desire to stop racist practices in the police department he decided to run for sheriff. He was elected in 1976 and has been in office for more than 28 years.

Sheriff McFaul is a pillar of our community and has worked to keep the streets of Cuyahoga County safe with the utmost respect for the rule of law and the people of this fine county.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly pleased that the people of Cuyahoga County turned to Gerald T. McFaul, to serve as sheriff for more than 28 years. Please join me today in honor and recognition of a person who has willingly assisted the residents of Cuyahoga County for nearly four decades.

HONORING CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE, CITRUS COUNTY, FL

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sheriffs Office in Citrus County, FL.

Local Sheriffs offices are the first responders to crimes and disasters and are a key element of support in our communities. It is important that we recognize the hard work and dedication of these men and women, and never take their service for granted.

These deputies make daily sacrifices and put themselves at risk keeping our communities safe. This office has shown professional excellence this past year and their work has truly made our county a safer place.

Events like the one today hosted by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce provide

the camaraderie and support these dedicated men and women deserve. This Appreciation Barbeque allows for the employees of the Sheriff's Department to come together after a very difficult and heart wrenching year. The generosity of the community as a whole has made this event possible and I thank them for it.

Unfortunately, I was unable to join them today at Liberty Park in Inverness, FL. I was unavoidably detained by Congressional votes here in Washington, DC, and could not return in time for the event. I look forward to joining them in the future when I am home in Citrus County.

The Mission of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office is to maintain peace and order by providing law enforcement services that are of the highest professional quality. I would argue they have far surpassed this mission. When tragedy strikes our community, I know we can rely on these truly dedicated public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I once again would like to express my true appreciation for everyone in the Sheriffs Office and all they do for our communities.

TRIBUTE TO THURL ARTHUR  
RAVENSCROFT

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan and I rise today to honor the life of Thurl Arthur Ravenscroft, the voice of Tony the Tiger, the orange-and-black-striped spokesman for Kellogg's Frosted Flakes. We would like to express our heartfelt condolences as all of us in Southern Michigan lost a friend and neighbor on May 22, 2005.

Thurl had a long, distinguished career, most notably as the voice of Tony the Tiger for over 53 years. However, his contributions to the entertainment industry didn't stop there. While a celebrity in his own right, he sang backup with other celebrities such as Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra and Rosemary Clooney. Thurl also provided voiceovers for the Grinch in Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "The Cat in the Hat," in "Horton Hears a Who," and "The Lorax."

With his contributions to Kellogg and Dr. Seuss novels, the world of Walt Disney wouldn't be the same without Thurl's voice. His vocal works played important roles in the themes of "The Mickey Mouse Club," "Davy Crockett," and "Zorro," while contributing to the making of "Cinderella," "Dumbo," and "Lady and the Tramp." Thurl's voice was also used in both song and narration for two of Walt Disney's most popular theme rides, "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Haunted Mansion."

While most of his career was spent entertaining both the young and old, Thurl courageously served in the U.S. Military for 5 years. In 1942, he enlisted in the Air Transport Command, where he flew numerous special missions over the North Atlantic as an expert navigator. In addition to his work outside the entertainment business, Thurl devoted time to activities in the Christian field that included recording the Book of Psalms for the visually impaired.

All of us in Southern Michigan are deeply saddened with the passing of Thurl Ravenscroft and appreciate all of his service as an entertainer, soldier and Christian. We will forever be able to enjoy his wonderful works whether we are watching great Kellogg commercials, a Disney movie, or attending an amusement park.

Southern Michigan will not be the same without Thurl Ravenscroft. He was GRRRRREEEEAT!

THE PLIGHT OF THE AFRO-COLOMBIANS

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring light to the continuing neglect of Afro-Descendent people in Colombia. This past May 21, 2005, Colombia marked the 154th anniversary of the abolition of slavery. Yet, African descendant minorities, who comprises 26 percent of the population, continues to be mistreated, marginalized socially and economically, and are pushed to the fringes of society.

Afro-Colombians are displaced from their ancestral lands which is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, so that extra-judicial groups such as the FARC, ELN and AUC are able to grow crops for drug trafficking. This population is, by far, the most repressed group in Colombia. They have the lowest national per capita income, the highest rates of illiteracy, high indices of infant mortality, and startling rates of preventable diseases.

Though the Colombian government is starting to make strides in breaking down the power of guerrilla and paramilitary groups, it has not done enough to protect Afro-Colombian territories. Historically, Afro-Colombian territories such as Chocó are of great strategic importance to securing the United States. Chocó is in essence at the crossroads between Central America and South America. It also has access to the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea making Chocó a very attractive launching pad for Colombia's extra-judicial actors.

These illegally armed actors should not and must not be exempt from prosecution for the human rights violations carried out under their leadership. The oppression of the Afro-Colombian population by these military groups must cease and desist. It is the responsibility of the Colombian government to secure its communities by eliminating such groups who have murdered, raped, and displaced the Afro-Colombian people.

We must do more in humanitarian assistance to provide better aid to those Afro-Colombians who have been displaced. Groups such as the Social Solidarity Network, Afro-Latino Development Alliance, the Black Mayors Federation, and AFRODES, in collaboration with local NGOs, are laying the foundation for advancements in healthcare, education, sustainable development, community kitchens, housing and other programs to address the needs of the displaced. Additionally, organizations such as USAID, Pan American Development Foundation, and the Colombian National Police are now finally planning to hire Afro-Colombians for technical and professional positions that will be beneficial to the Afro-Colombian community.